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Walker Brother and California Man Indicted on Espionage Charges

7-Count Indictment of Third Member of Family Alleges He Took Book on Ship Emergencies

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NORFOLK, Va., June 17 — Arthur J. Walker, the older brother of John A. Walker Jr., was indicted today by a Federal grand jury on charges of spying for the Soviet Union.

The seven-count indictment included a new charge against Arthur Walker, a 50-year-old retired Navy lieutenant commander. The Government has charged that his brother John, a retired Navy chief warrant officer, recruited him in 1980 to deliver classified documents to him for money.

The new charge is that on Sept. 2, 1981, Arthur Walker took the damage control book of the U.S.S. Blue Ridge, the command ship of the Seventh Fleet in the western Pacific, to his brother's private detective agency in nearby Virginia Beach. There, according to the indictment, Arthur Walker "knowingly" photographed the pages, classified "confidential," for delivery through John Walker to the Russians.

Used in Emergencies

Damage control books on naval ships are used by specially trained crew members in emergencies such as fire, enemy weapons hits, collision and flooding. They contain detailed plans of the ship, from stem to stern, compartment by compartment. The plans could show the location and protection of secret equipment such as missile magazines, shipboard computers and gear for sensing submarines.

The Blue Ridge, whose home port is Yokosuka, Japan, carries three large

computer systems, dealing with command, tactical and intelligence information, linked to the United States by satellite, a Navy spokesman said.

The indictment also charged, as the Federal Bureau of Investigation said earlier, that Arthur Walker admitted receiving \$12,000 from his brother on April 28, 1982, for the theft and photocopying of "confidential" documents described as casualty reports.

The reports described the malfunctioning of undisclosed equipment aboard an entire class of five large, helicopter-carrying amphibious assault ships, used by the Navy to transport marines for shore combat.

Penalty: Life Terms and Fines

If convicted on all counts, Arthur Walker faces a maximum penalty of three life terms plus 40 years in prison and to pay \$40,000 in fines. His court-appointed lawyers have said he would plead not guilty at an arraignment Tuesday in Federal District Court here. They declined to comment today.

John Walker, 47, and his son, Michael, 22, a seaman who was serving on the aircraft carrier Nimitz, were indicted May 28 on espionage charges in Baltimore.

A fourth suspect, Jerry A. Whitworth, 45, of Davis, Calif., a retired Navy chief petty officer and former shipmate of John Walker's, was arrested in San Francisco June 3.

The F.B.I. has said Arthur Walker waived his right to remain silent and

gave two of its agents a confession on May 24.

The seven-count indictment consisted of one overall charge of espionage conspiracy and, in each of the two purported spying incidents, three counts of taking, possessing and delivering classified documents to "an agent of the Soviet Union" — John Walker.

The indictment charged that Arthur Walker had "surreptitiously" taken both sets of documents from the Chesapeake, Va., office of the VSE Corporation, a Navy contractor. It charged that he "knowingly and willfully" conspired with John Walker in 1980 to obtain the job at VSE that gave him access to the classified materials.